

blocked the Canton approaches with many obstructions, they may have saved much expenditure of funds. Who may or may not be the gainer, it is not for us to say. Possibly more may be heard of the barriers when they come to be removed.

The Russian man-of-war *Sinich* had arrived at Hankow on the 11th inst.

The *Peking Gazette* says:—In Peking, we are informed, the right to gamble is farmed out, and a very respectable item of revenue is the result. Nevertheless, the practice is illegal and totally opposed to morality; but such a decision will be arrived at by the Commission is not at all likely.

Since Messrs S. O. Farnham & Co. have taken the job in hand, (says the *N. C. News*) considerable progress has been made towards building the tugboat *Robert*. It was expected she would be above water on Monday, the 17th inst. She had been lifted six feet on the 15th.

A letter in the *Japan Daily Herald* says that Orikio is distinct in Yokohama. The Correspondent supplies the following appropriate epitaph:—

Cremate this ball, the base, the wicket,
Believe of Yokohama Orikio
Demand a tear—they shall not lack it,
Boy! bring me my *Lavin* Tonia Rakke!

Some extraordinary play was seen in a match at billiards at the Billiard Hall, Anglo-street, Rangoon, in which H. Roberts contested with S. O. Farnham in 12,000, equal barred. Roberts compiled the splendid break of 500, which is the best on record, beating by 55 his own performance of 451. Later in the evening he made another fine run of 300, and Cook's best run was 155.

The *Shanghai Courier* translates the following from the *Argus*:—Recently there appeared, in the district of Kai-ping, in Kwang-tung Province, an animal which greatly resembled a man. It had a very large head, and its height was about 8 feet. Its body was covered with black hair several inches long, and its voice was like the rumbling of thunder. It was as strong as a bull, and its skin was as hard as iron. It chiefly feeds upon the dead bodies of human beings which have been newly buried. The country people have pursued it while beating gongs (to frighten it), but it ran like the wind, so that it was impossible to catch it. Even the firing of cannon could not injure it.

The *Amoy Gazette* of the 15th inst. has the following concerning the new levy of lekin in Formosa:—

A correspondent for Taiwanfoo, under date of the 12th inst., writes that a complete cessation of business has followed the announcement of the proposed *lekin* in Formosa. There was great excitement in the city. At a meeting of foreign merchants, resolutions were passed, protesting against the tax, and petitioning H. M. Consul to communicate their views to the Chinese authorities. News of a disquieting nature had been received from the North of the island, and any attempt to levy the new tax in the South, will, it is believed, tend to rouse the indignation of the people, who are still suffering from the effects of the recent blockade.

The Peking correspondent of the *N. C. D. News*, writing on the 9th May, refers amusingly to the diplomatic hunting of Prince Chun as follows:—There has been keen competition between Herr von Brandt and M. Ristchueber as to who should see the Seventh Prince first, and report says the German Minister has won. The Prince, having consented to receive him at Tientsin on the 17th M. Ristchueber will follow, and he has kindly offered to save the Prince's time by representing in his own person the whole consular body of which he is the doyen. It is not yet certain what the representatives will do, but the Ministers who have no Syndicates to 'boose' do not seem inclined to join in the chase after the Prince. Even the Consuls at Tientsin are reported to be indisposed to dispute with him of France about the honour of an interview with the distinguished visitor, and if he allows M. Ristchueber to represent them on the occasion they will show great self-possession. He and his Syndicate will thus have their own way, or at least will only have to settle accounts with the Germans.

It is said that Sir Charles Dilke has forwarded, through his legal advisers, to the Queen's Proctor, what purports to be a full and detailed statement of all the facts in his possession bearing upon the case of Crawford and Dilke. This document, it is added, contains a full, formal, and detailed denial of the truth of the statements made by Mrs. Crawford in her confession to her husband, and repeated by Mr. Crawford in the witness box. It has been forwarded to the Queen's Proctor, in the hope that that official may intervene as one of the parties to the evidence offered in support of the defence. Although on this point there is no direct or authoritative information, it is the intention of the Queen's Proctor to bring the matter before the Court. He has already acquired a considerable mass of information. The whole of the particulars in possession of the petitioner, together with other evidence before him, before the public, has been before him for some time. On May 3 Sir Charles Dilke will invite the Liberal electors of Chelsea to meet him in the Riding School at South Kensington, when he will make a full statement of the case from his point of view.

After detailing the history of the case of Chang Chi, the *N. C. D. News* expresses an opinion in which we mainly concur. It says:—We are very much inclined to agree with the Member of Council who brought forward the question, that these charges of piracy and murder are trumped up, and that the offence of Chang Chi—if he has committed any—has been salted away. The delay in bringing forward evidence against a man who, according to the Canton authorities, has been murdered, is a most professional piece, is quite in accordance with Chinese methods, and we do not quarrel with the Hongkong Government having allowed ample time for the formulation of the charges. But it is missing the form of British justice, when so accused is released after four months' imprisonment, and the charges are not brought forward until the day following his release, and holds him in prison for a time that promises to be indefinite, on the same vague charges of crime committed within Chinese territory, and for the Member of Council who brought forward the question, that these charges of piracy and murder are trumped up, and that the offence of Chang Chi—if he has committed any—has been salted away.

The Tea Guild has appointed Mr J. M. Ringer arbitrator, in succession to the late incumbent Mr J. Welch.

We understand that the steamers after the *Kaisow* were also to load at 23 10/.

The Tea Steamers.

The British steamer *Kutang* (Captain W. O. M. Young), which arrived here from Shanghai this morning, reports that the steamers *Glenlogie* and *Kaisow*, the first of the tea steamers, passed her yesterday on the way down. According to the latest letters from Hankow great efforts were being made to despatch the *Glenlogie* and *Kaisow* together on Sunday last, the 16th inst., and they probably got away at the appointed time, for

than this, that is, in plain English, play into the hands of the Canton authorities, was quite sufficient to show the satisfaction he felt at the Ministerial weakness. The truth, we are inclined to believe from what we have heard, is, that the Canton authorities have such a poor opinion of the firmness and intelligence of the Government of Hongkong, that they believe they can do anything they please with it.

The entire Consular Service appears to be as follows:—Consuls-General 42, of whom 11 are foreigners; Consuls 145, of whom 11 are foreigners; Vice-Consuls 458, of whom 213 are foreigners; Consular Agents 56, of whom 46 are foreigners.

Most of these foreigners are, it must be admitted, unpaid; but there are many, important points at which we might have paid Consuls with advantage, who, for the business both of our commerce and our foreign policy, ought to be British citizens. At Fiume, the port of Hungary, a country with which we have important trade relations, there is a Consul receiving 4000 per annum, and a Vice-Consul unpaid; both are foreigners. At Brindisi there is a foreign Vice-Consul, yet Brindisi is a vital point in our chain of communications with India. We wonder Anglo-Indian travellers to and from haven't long since complained of this. On the other hand, we keep a Consul at Hongkong, whose duty it is to take care of distinguished travellers on the steamers to Fokien, who gets 7500 a year, and remits 1100 for his services; while at the important port of Dunkirk the Government is satisfied with a Vice-Consul, who gets 2500 for office expenses and emoluments. At Nantes we have a Consul at 7000, who remits 14. At New Caledonia there is a Consul receiving 10000 a year, at Corfu one with 8500, at Crete one with 7000; but no Consul at Belgrade, only a Minister, who we believe does not consider trade to come within his functions, one of his clerks writing a report on the Consul, which is of little use to the British merchant or manufacturer. Evidently there is need for a thorough overhauling of the service.

Overland Mail.

This action for damages for libel brought by Mr. Browne, lately a clerk in the Melbourne General Post Office, against the proprietors of the Melbourne Punch, has now been decided in favour of the plaintiff. For the benefit of those of our readers who do not remember the circumstances of the case, we reproduce the following summary of it:—

In July last Mr. Laurence M.L.A., asked the chief Secretary in the Legislative Assembly if it was true that Mr. Browne had for the previous six months done no work except sit on a stool and draw his salary, and Mr. Berry replied in substance in the affirmative, and said that Mr. Browne's case was under the consideration of the public Service Board, with the view to his removal from office on the ground of unfitness. A paragraph on the subject was published in *The Argus* of the following day. This paragraph was re-published by the defendants, the proprietors of *The Melbourne Punch*, with a cartoon, entitled 'An Opening,' and the words 'why should Mr. Browne be sacked. Every man has his use. Let him stand outside the General Post-office, and hang out his tongue for people to trample upon.' The plaintiff brought an action in the County Court, before Judge Casey and a Jury. On that occasion the jury gave a verdict for the defendants. Plaintiff appealed to the Full Court, which held that though the reports of proceedings in Parliament were privileged, comments on those reports were not privileged; and that there was evidence to show that the statements made in Parliament were true before taking them as a basis for comment. A new trial was directed to be had before a judge of the Supreme Court, and this took place yesterday. The evidence for the plaintiff consisted of admission of the publication of the paper, and that the alleged libel referred to Mr. Browne. The defence was that the publication was a fair comment on the relations between Mr. Browne and the department. His Honour was of opinion that the evidence did not sustain the defence of fair comment, and gave judgment for the plaintiff, reserving the question of damages.

CHOLERA PREVALENT IN JAPAN.

Mr Teikei Minami, Japanese Consul at this port, has informed us that he is in receipt of telegrams stating that cholera is prevalent in Kioto, Osaka and Kobe; and, consequently, from the 20th May (yesterday), the Inspections Regulations of 1882 have been enforced. Vessels visiting Yokohama will be inspected at Nagaura. Nagaura, the Consul adds, is situated in longitude 139° 38' E., Greenwich, and in latitude 35° 17' N.

The Hankow Tea Market.

The Hankow correspondent of the *N. C. D. News* writes, under date the 11th inst., as follows:—

'The only steamers in port for London are the *Glenlogie* and *Kaisow*, both said to be fully engaged at 24 and 23 10/ per ton respectively. Every exertion is being made to despatch them simultaneously next Sunday morning, 16th inst. The blue funnel boat *Titan* will possibly be third ship away, to be followed immediately by the *Glenlogie* and *Ninadown*. We then get a short rest.

The Tea Guild has appointed Mr J. M. Ringer arbitrator, in succession to the late incumbent Mr J. Welch.

We understand that the steamers after the *Kaisow* were also to load at 23 10/.

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we learn that the *Glenlogie* passed Woosung at 9 o'clock on Monday night. The *Kutang* left Shanghai on Sunday she must have passed Woosung about 26 hours ahead of the *Glen* boat, so that the latter must be racing at a very considerable speed. Though the freight is comparatively small, we believe it is intended to 'drive' the *Glenlogie* home. The *Glenlogie* passed the *Kutang* about 12 hours ahead of the *Kaisow*.

The Delimitation of the Tonquin Frontier.

We learn that the joint commission of French and Chinese representatives who were appointed to delimit the frontier of Tonquin and China will not resume their labours until next October. When the Commissioners met they started from Chen Nan Kwan, the Gateway between Tonquin and China, and proceeded eastwards of this point as far as the pass called Ai-tien-tai, a distance of 50 miles, delimiting the frontier as they went along. They then retraced their steps to the Gateway, and started off in a westerly direction, the work of delimitation being carried on as far as Ping-shi Kwan, distant from Chen Nan Kwan 60 miles. When this point had been reached, the hot season had arrived, and the Commissioners mutually agreed to adjourn their labours until October next, when the work of delimitation will be resumed at the sea and at a place called Haining. The Commissioners will then retrace the frontier to Yunnan, completing their work at Lao Kai. What has been accomplished does not represent much of the distance to be delimited, but it represents a good proportion of the work, as the Commissioners are now at one as to the principle on which their task is to be performed, and the discussions which have hitherto delayed the work are not likely to recur.

Disturbed State of Annam.

Annam is still apparently in a very disturbed state, notwithstanding all the efforts which have been put forth by the French Government to pacify that troublesome country. By the arrival of the German steamer *Vorwarts*, Captain Bruhn, from Touron to-day, we gather that the rebels, or pirates, have lately appeared in great force between the port of Touron and Phu Phai, a town about 25 miles inland by river. Hitherto they have contented themselves with trying to stop the importation of provisions, &c., into Touron, but on the night of Saturday the 10th their hostility became more active, and they set fire to a number of houses near the French Post Office. They offered no violence, however, to the native people or to the small French community in the place, consisting of the Customs Officials, Messengers' agent and a hotel keeper, and took themselves to the other side of the river. On the following night they also fired a number of villages, some five or six miles distant from Touron on the opposite side. Before Captain Bruhn left on the night of the 18th, the French garrison at Touron, numbering about 400 men, had gone in pursuit of the rebels, who are estimated, incorrectly we think, at 10,000 men, but had not as yet overthrown them. These disturbances will in all probability destroy the trade of Touron for some time at least.

At Quinhon, too, we learn that matters are in a somewhat similar state. There the residents of the place are even worse off than at Touron, for the rebels have almost entirely cut off the supplies from inland, and an eager rush is made on every vessel which visits the port for provisions, &c. The hot weather has now arrived, too, and the garrison can do nothing to rid the district of the blockaders. While the *Forwards* was in port, 300 or 400 Zouaves were shipped for home. The hatred of the Annamese who have not come under the influence of the Roman Catholic missionaries is as strong against the native converts as it is against the French themselves; and, altogether, the outlook for the French administrators does not look very bright.

The Law Revision Commission has been very diligent in the performance of its important duties with which it has been entrusted. Ten Ordinances prepared by this Commission, have been passed by the Council since the beginning of the year, and a number of other Draft Bills will be ready for the next Session of Council.

I have appointed a Commission to inquire into the system of land-tenure and into the disposal of Crown lands, with a view to the adoption of such improvements as may facilitate the transfer of those lands held from the Crown, an inquiry which I believe will, when completed, be of great practical utility both to the Government and to the community.

With regard to Public Works, satisfactory progress continues to be made with the works for the extension of the public water supply, and it is anticipated that the rate of progress, that the tunnel intended to convey the water from Tytan to this side of the Island, will be completed before the end of next year; whereupon the new supply will be made available for public use, and an important measure of relief obtained for the inhabitants of the growing town.

A further large instalment of useful sanitary work has been effected during the past season in the reconstruction and extension of the main drainage and sewerage system of the town, principally in the Chinese quarters. Contracts have been entered into for the completion of the new Victoria College within eighteen months from the present date, and arrangements have been made for the further development of the western suburb of Kennedy Town by the formation of new streets and thoroughfares and the erection of an adequate Police Station for that locality. The new permanent Lazzaretto Buildings at Stone Outlets which were contracted to be finished by the 1st July will be completed by that date, and will become available for occupation should occasion arise.

Among other measures for the better protection of the public health in the Colony, to which subject your attention was directed during last session, I have approved a large extension to the present Cattle market building at Kennedy Town, by which means all live stock imported into the Colony and intended for our markets, will be brought under close and continuous inspection, thus insuring a more effective protection of the food supplies of the public.

I propose to construct, as soon as the hot season has terminated, a permanent Police Station at Mount Douglas for the protection of the residents at the Peak, whose number is likely to be considerably extended in the near future.

In conclusion, Honourable Gentlemen, I desire to convey, by your kind and valuable co-operation, the most satisfactory manner.

the beginning of the present year was better than had been anticipated. The Revenue of 1885, which had been estimated at \$1,137,568 yielded \$1,251,390, besides \$65,669 for premia on sales of land. The only year when the Revenue has been larger was 1883, when, owing to exceptional circumstances, a very large amount was received from Licences for boiling opium for exportation. The marked increase of receipts over 1884 is due no doubt to the termination of the illicitities recently carried on in this part of the world.

In consequence of this improvement in the Revenue of 1885, the balance of assets at the commencement of the present year was \$427,692 instead of \$190,083 as estimated in October last.

I am happy to inform you that the receipts during the first quarter of the present year have been about \$17,000 in excess of the Estimate, and that the year will close with a larger amount than in 1885, thus exhibiting a continued healthy development of commerce.

In consequence of this satisfactory condition of the finances, it will probably not be necessary for the Colony to borrow any money until towards the end of the year, which will amount to about \$25,000, when the whole \$230,000 has been borrowed; and the Council, being consulted on the means to be devised for providing more funds, unanimously recommended that the best means of doing so would be chiefly by an increase of the stamp duty on conveyances, and a good permanent business, and the increase of expenditure to be only about 75 per cent.

We have already got part of the military work, and arrangements are being made to take it all, which will give us an additional income of about \$500 per month, at an inconsiderable outlay. We have established a military school at Canton and hope to extend it. We have also secured the work of the new line of German mail steamers, besides having sundry other items in the fire, and when the new machinery arrives we shall be in a position to undertake a large increase of work with very little extra outlay. We have succeeded in reducing the working expenses materially, and hope to be able to effect a further reduction, and I can assure the shareholders that their interests are being well watched. I do not think there is anything more I can add, and have only to thank the shareholders for their kind and valuable co-operation. Mr. E. K. is it competent for any shareholder to ask any question?

The Chairman—No, I believe not. The meeting then separated. Considerable surprise was expressed at the raising of the Chairman with regard to the kind of questions.

VICTORIA LAUNDRY COMPANY, LIMITED.

A general meeting of the shareholders of the Victoria Laundry Company, Limited, was held this afternoon in the Hongkong Hotel. Those present were:—Captain G. O. Anderson (Chairman), Messrs R. Fraser Smith, F. Leake (Directors), W. H. Ray, W. Legge, A. Johnston, G. Grant, N. J. Ede, D. McCulloch, A. E. Vane, M. F. Enloe and R. C. Harley, Secretary.

The Secretary having read the notice calling the meeting, The Chairman said—Gentlemen, as this evening is held simply to comply with the provisions of the Companies Ordinance, and there being nothing of special importance to lay before the shareholders, there is consequently but little for me to say. I am glad to state, however, that we are slowly but surely overcoming the many difficulties which we knew had to be surmounted, and, thanks to the energy and perseverance of our Manager, the business has been greatly developed, and it placed on a satisfactory footing. We have much fewer complaints, claims have been reduced to a minimum, and in spite of most determined opposition from native sources the Laundry is steadily gaining in the public estimation.

From January to May, 1885, the number of pieces collected was 19,308, including the work from Her Majesty's transports, whilst during the same period of 1886 the number was 235,841 pieces, exclusive of any transport work, which was greatly reduced by the receipt of 18-5. This is an increase of nearly 50 per cent. of the business, and the increase of expenditure to be only about 75 per cent. We have already got part of the military work, and arrangements are being made to take it all, which will give us an additional income of about \$500 per month, at an inconsiderable outlay. We have established a military school at Canton and hope to extend it. We have also secured the work of the new line of German mail steamers, besides having sundry other items in the fire, and when the new machinery arrives we shall be in a position to undertake a large increase of work with very little extra outlay. We have succeeded in reducing the working expenses materially, and hope to be able to effect a further reduction, and I can assure the shareholders that their interests are being well watched. I do not think there is anything more I can add, and have only to thank the shareholders for their kind and valuable co-operation. Mr. E. K. is it competent for any shareholder to ask any question?

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CORRESPONDENCE.

A LETTER OF THANKS.
(To the Editor of 'The China Mail'.)
Hongkong, May 20.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of \$749, collected by Mrs Henry Smith, of the Cosmopolitan Dock, and I wish to publicly return her many thanks for her kind efforts on my behalf, she being comparatively a stranger to me and my late husband.

Your obedient servant,
E. YEO.

THE HONGKONG COURT IN THE COLONIAL AND INDIAN EXHIBITION.

Our morning contemporary has received the following account through Mr H. E. Wodehouse:—

Losnos, 16th April.
Your readers will be interested to hear that the Hongkong Court, at the Colonial Exhibition, is rapidly settling down into definite form and order. But the work has been a good deal delayed by the non-arrival of many of the exhibits. Owing to this the silk and articles of commerce (for which a space has been set apart measuring thirty feet by seven feet) will not even be ready by the opening day, the 4th May. The Hongkong Court, however, is more forward in preparation than many of the other Courts, and it is hoped that, with the exception of the silks, &c., everything will be finished by the 4th May, on which day the Queen will formally open the Exhibition. The ceremony of opening the Exhibition, we hear, to be on a very grand scale, and there is no doubt that the coming Exhibition will far exceed in interest and magnificence all the preceding shows. The general decorations of the walls of the Hongkong Court have not been retouched, new flags are substituted for the old ones, but the painting of the designs are being held by a Chinese artist for the Health Exhibition; they are very quaint and characteristic, and it was decided that they could not be improved upon, taking into consideration their harmony with the numerous exhibits of Chinese manufacture which will be shown in the Court this year; especially as all the other Courts have endeavoured, as much as possible, to make their decorations and painting appropriate to the Colony exhibiting, and to avoid the appearance of English art. The large gateway leading from the Singapore Court into the Hongkong Court is to be elaborately decorated with curtains and banners, and the name of the Colony will appear over the two principal entrances painted in bold artistic designs.

Preparations for the electric lighting are being actively carried on, to the great danger of those exhibits already placed in the Court, the room being at such an immense height, and the ladders so unsteady, it is only surprising that so few accidents happen. But the effect will be very beautiful, new lamps are being hung in each Court, and the whole system of lighting is on even a larger scale than last year.

While on the subject of decoration, we may say that the question of how to cover and disguise the very shabby floor, is one of great difficulty. At former exhibitions the boards have been left uncovered; this answered well so long as the floors were tolerably clean and unstained, but the inventories of last year, with its heavy and necessary oiling machinery, have spoiled the boards, and many parts of the Hongkong Court have been stained black in large squares and lines, rendering it very unsightly. The space to be covered is so large, that, whether it is matted over or painted, there must arise a question of expense which the Commission feels scarcely justified in incurring; but that something must be done is quite certain. Sir Philip Cunliffe Owen has been most courteous and obliging in every way; he has expressed his belief at being able to hand over the entire management of the Court to an accredited representative of the Hongkong Government, and has kindly offered to work in the capacity of Chief Secretary to the Commission. And with the help of two efficient assistants, our work is progressing in the most satisfactory manner.

THE OCCUPATION OF MASSOWAH.
London, April 23.—The King of Abyssinia has massed 15,000 troops at Keren, for the purpose of resisting the occupation of Massowah by Italy.

ACCIDENT TO THE R.M.S. 'VALETTA'.
London, April 23.—The P. & O. Company's R.M.S. *Valletta*, 491 tons, which proceeded down the Red Canal on her outward voyage to Aden, ran aground on the 22nd inst. off the coast of Egypt, and remained fast. The cargo is now being unloaded.

THE AUSTRALIAN ELEVEN.
London, April 23.—The M. C. O. Australian Eleven will play their first match in England against Lord Sheffield's team, at Sheffield Park. The following players have been selected to represent Lord Sheffield's team:—W. G. Grace, W. E. Read, Newham, Uytend, Shaw, Sherrington, Scotland, Harrow, Eden, Flower, and Phillips.

THE WRECK OF THE 'VALERIE'.
Melbourne, April 23.—By the arrival of the steamship *Valerie* from New Zealand, further particulars are to hand respecting the wreck of the steamer *Valerie*. Thirteen only out of a total of 47 on board

All the models have reached us in perfect order, with the exception of some of the junk, which have been badly knocked about, probably more from treatment at the Custom House than from bad packing. But the dock engine arrived thickly covered with rust. This was entirely owing to bad packing; it has been taken to pieces and given two men several days' work to clean and put together again. The models of the Colony and the Docks are in perfect condition; they have already excited the greatest admiration from the exquisite finish of the work. Indeed, it is the opinion of the many visitors who have been admitted to take a quiet look round, that the Hongkong models will hold their own well against any shown in the Exhibition; in no others already unlooked have we seen anything to equal the delicate finish of detail so conspicuously shown in our models. Among the most attractive are evidently the Vermilion factory and the highly finished models of a Chinese dispensary, exhibited by Dr Ho Kai.

The two models of the Colony and the Docks face each other on opposite sides of the same range, and the latter are in the Court, the junks being arranged on a wide stand running round three sides of the Dock, and raised about a foot from it, fishing nets being draped over the edge. This arrangement is very effective and shows off both the Dock and the junks to the best advantage. The model of the Colony will be flanked by stands covered with the photographs of Hongkong. On each side of the gateway are placed the fine exhibits of rope rising pyramically to the height of about two feet, next to which are placed the dock engine on the one side and the current stone on the other. The model of the Vermilion factory and the highly finished models of a Chinese dispensary, exhibited by Dr Ho Kai, are arranged on tiers of shelves the bottles of medicinal drugs and herbs, the exhibits of sugar, rum, soy, and mussels, and the samples of kung-fu.

The beautiful collection of woods has been tastefully arranged by Mr. Ford in a blackwood frame relieved by gilding, the exhibit taking up one bay on the right-hand side of the Court. The bamboo, rattan, and brass and pewter were from most effective trophies in three bays at the opposite end. A large collection of the implements of industry occupy another bay. The matting stand is completed, and looks most imposing; it is placed on one side of a large entrance, allowing for a gateway behind it, and is balanced on the other side by the immense trophy of coarse crockery which has been greatly admired since its arrival, increased by the tray behind it having been filled up with pots and is arranged on shelves. On the opposite side of the Court a large space is taken up by the highly decorated building in Chinese style, forming the entrance hall to the private dining and smoking room, and which will be the scene of the reception of the Prince of Wales, and there he will pass through His Royal Highness will pass through the Hongkong Court to and from his dining room. The two rooms on each side of this entrance will be devoted to the embroidery and needle-work sent from the French and Italian Courts, large cases having been placed there in readiness to receive the work. Close to this building, the blackwood furniture built by Mr. Loxley, and including the handsome centre table by Mr. F. D. Sassoon, is arranged. Above this again is a quadrangle composed of large glass cases, with galleries between each, which is prepared to receive the silver, bronzes, and other articles of commerce. The silver and jewellery and ornamental brass work occupy glass cases ranged against the walls at the lower end of the Court. The sedan chairs, junks, and coolies will be arranged wherever there is room for them, and they will be kept in such positions as to be easily to know where to place them in safety.

The models of the joss house, theatre, pagoda, and the chimney with bamboo scaffolding are placed to mark the limit of the central gateway. A large space is reserved at the upper end of the Court for the full display of the Chinese manufactures. Address to the Prince of Wales. The Chinese ship is placing samples of its choicest articles in the Court as a foretoken of what may be seen by those who penetrate to the g-lery of the Albert Hall where they have a fine, large space set apart for selling the many articles of things which have been brought from the Chinese. The Chinese are very pleased with the arrangements made for them, and there is no doubt they will drive a flourishing business when once the Exhibition is open.

The Prince of Wales intends to pay an early visit to the shop, where the island of the Chinese furniture will be seen to find a purchaser in him. The Chinese are contentedly quartered in the Exhibition together with the Indians and other natives, being superintended and catered for by a man appointed by the General Commission for the purpose. Further details will be forwarded after the Exhibition has been thrown open to the public.

AUSTRALIAN TELEGRAMS.

The following telegrams, taken from our Australian exchanges brought on by the British steamer *Guthrie*, Captain Green, which arrived here to-day, have not yet been published here:—

THE ORIENT STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.
London, April 16.—The Orient Steam Navigation Company has declared a dividend of 5 per cent., and carried forward and placed to the reserve fund \$12,000.

THE IRISH QUESTION.
London, April 23.—Mr. Parnell objects to former concessions being made by Mr. Gladstone in his Irish policy with the view of inducing Mr. Chamberlain to re-enter the Ministry.

PROBABLE VISIT OF MADAME ALBANI TO AUSTRALIA.
London, April 23.—Madame Albani, the famous vocalist, who has been engaged to sing the opening concert at the Sydney and the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, will probably proceed on a professional tour to Australia.

THE WRECK OF THE 'VALERIE'.
Melbourne, April 23.—By the arrival of the steamship *Valerie* from New Zealand, further particulars are to hand respecting the wreck of the steamer *Valerie*. Thirteen only out of a total of 47 on board

survived the disaster. The fragments of the vessel from Wellington were seen, attended by several special forces. She had to put back no fewer than three times, to take passengers on board. On one of these occasions the ship was manœuvred with great difficulty down and injuring a sailor; and narrowly missed several bystanders on the wharf. Several intending passengers missed the boat, or decided at the last moment not to go. On Sunday, the 11th inst., several bookmakers intended to go on board, but they changed their minds.

The intention after the wreck appears to have been to land on the ship by means of a line passed from the stern until daylight. The captain, who was the last to leave the vessel, took charge of the boat he was in, but it drifted away from the other boat, and the second boat was hoisted in the attempt to tow her back. It was fortunate for the occupants that this was the case, for after running before the wind all night, the captain's boat made a landing at the Wairoa bar. The boats left hanging by the line from the steamer were soon disengaged as the water which surrounded them increased in roughness, and they were left more and more in broken water. One after another the boats filled and capsized. The boat which contained the five women who were on board the steamer was the first to go. A number of the men who were in her reached the next boat on the line, but only to find her bottom upwards. They clung to her, and she righted. Judged by subsequent events, a mistake was clearly made in leaving the vessel, while a second grave mistake was made in not sending up more rockets and firing the gun, which would have certainly have brought down the people in the neighbourhood, who might have been of assistance in attempting to land the passengers.

BRISBANE OPINION OF GLADSTONE'S SPEECH.

Brisbane, April 19.—A meeting of the Liberal Irish Protestants was held to-night, in the Protestant Hall, to consider Mr. Gladstone's Irish policy. There were about 150 persons present. The chairman, Mr. James Bryce, expressed an opinion that all Irishmen should have been invited, without distinction of creed. Resolutions were carried to the effect that in the opinion of the meeting, the cabinet have recently acted in a manner which does not express the opinion of the Irish residents in Queensland; that the disintegration of the United Kingdom would be more disastrous to the true interests of Ireland than to Great Britain; that the carrying into effect of the proposal to give separate legislative power to Ireland would intensify rather than diminish the existing antagonism of the two peoples of Ireland; and that the following telegram on the subject be sent to Lord Salisbury:—'Lord Robert Irishman resident Queensland opposed Home Rule Ireland.'

THE CABLE FROM CANADA TO AUSTRALIA.
London, April 21.—The Canadian Government has informed Sir Alexander Sturges that it is prepared to subsidize the proposed cable from Vancouver, B.C., to Australia in an equal proportion with Australia. Earl Granville is, generally speaking, favourable to the scheme.

QUARANTINE AT COOKTOWN.

Brisbane, April 21.—The steamer *African* arrived at Cooktown early this morning. The health officer, having ascertained that the vessel had called at Singapore ordered the yellow flag to be hoisted, and put the vessel in quarantine. The passengers, however, were not quarantined, as they had been made for the discharge of the cargo at all the Queensland ports in quarantine. The *African* brought a clean bill of health from all ports, and was passed by the health officer at Thursday Island.

THE YACHT 'MORROW'—An extraordinary yield of diamonds has been obtained in Woods, Moore, Knapton, and Morrow's claim, near Inverell, 2,400 stones, weighing 623 carats, have been procured by four men in four weeks, of which 302 carats were washed, and 325 from the dirt. The diamonds are of various sizes, but the Kohinoor claim is still getting a number of diamonds, and have 700 carats ready for market.

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INSURANCES.

LANCASHIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

(FIRE AND LIFE.)

CAPITAL—TWO MILLIONS STERLING.

THE Undersigned are prepared to grant Policies against the Risk of FIRE on Buildings or on Goods stored therein, on Goods on board Vessels and on Hulls of Vessels in Harbour, at the usual Terms and Conditions.

Proposals for Life Assurances will be received, and transmitted to the Directors for their decision.

If required, protection will be granted on first class Lives up to £1000 on a Single Life.

For Rates of Premiums, forms of proposals or any other information, apply to ARNOLD, KARBURG & Co., Agents, Hongkong & Canton.

Hongkong, January 4, 1887. 100

THE LONDON ASSURANCE COMPANY.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER OF His Majesty King George The First, A.D. 1720.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Corporation are prepared to grant Insurances as follows:—

Marine Department. Policies at current rates, payable either here, in London, or at the principal Ports of India, China, and Australia.

Fire Department. Policies issued for long or short periods at current rates.

Life Department. Policies issued for sums not exceeding £5,000 at reduced rates.

HOLIDAY, WISE & Co. Hongkong, July 25, 1872. 456

THE STRAITS INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE Undersigned having been appointed AGENTS for the above Corporation are prepared to GRANT POLICIES on MARINE RISKS to all parts of the World, at current rates.

ARNOLD, KARBURG & Co. Hongkong, November 3, 1883. 855

NORTH BRITISH & MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned, AGENTS of the above Company, are authorized to Insure against FIRE at Current Rates.

GILMAN & Co. Hongkong, January 1, 1882. 14

NOTICE.

QUEEN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned are prepared to accept Risks on First Class Goods at 1 per cent. net premium per annum.

NORTON & Co., Agents. Hongkong, May 19, 1881. 938

SINGAPORE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE—SINGAPORE.

WE are prepared to GRANT POLICIES on FIRE on usual terms at Current Rates.

All Contributors of business, whether Shareholders or not, are entitled to Share in the Bonus.

ADAMSON, BELL & Co., Agents. Hongkong, July, 1885. 1239

THE CHINA MAIL.

Merchant Vessels in Hongkong Harbour.

Exclusive of late Arrivals and Departures reported to-day.

To facilitate finding the position of any vessel in the Harbour, the Anchorage is divided into ten Sections, commencing at Green Island. Vessels near the Hongkong shore are marked h, near the Kowloon shore k, and those in the Lady of the Shipping or midway between each shore are marked c, in conjunction with the figures denoting the sections.

Section.

1. From Green Island to the Gas Works.
2. From Gas Works to Jardine's Wharf.
3. From Jardine's Wharf to the Harbour Master's Office.
4. From Harbour Master's Office to the P. and O. Co.'s Office.
5. From P. and O. Co.'s Office to Peddar's Wharf.

Section.

6. From Peddar's Wharf to the Naval Yard.
7. From Naval Yard to Blue Buildings.
8. From Blue Buildings to East Point.
9. From East Point to North Point.
10. Kowloon Wharves.

Vessel's Name.	Flag and Rig.	Tonn.	Date of Arrival.	Consignees or Agents.	Destination.	Remarks.
Acton	3 c	298	May 20	Arnold, Karberg & Co.	Haiphong	25th inst.
Adowa	3 h	400	May 17	P. & O. S. N. Co.	Bombay, &c.	To-morrow
Alvino	3 h	400	May 17	P. & O. S. N. Co.	Haiphong	Laid up
Amatista	2 h	678	Jan. 31	Russell & Co.	Shanghai	To-morrow
Amoy	4 c	814	May 20	Siemens & Co.	Yokohama	To-morrow
Angerton	3 h	1823	May 12	Siemens & Co.	Amoy & Shanghai	23rd inst.
Bellerophon	5 c	1304	May 19	Butterfield & Swire	Foochow	23rd inst.
Benary	3 c	1119	May 14	Gibb, Livingston & Co.	Coast Ports	23rd inst.
Camora	3 c	1292	May 15	Adamson, Bell & Co.	Yama & San Francisco	To-morrow
Caribbe	3 c	1073	May 15	M. S. S. Co.	Amoy & Manila	To-morrow
City of Rio Janeiro	4 c	3584	May 15	M. S. S. Co.	Swatow & Amoy	To-morrow
Don Juan	3 c	482	May 21	Brandao & Co.		
Dubury	3 c	507	May 20	Bun Hin Chan		
Elsa	3 c	507	May 21	Wielor & Co.		
Electra	3 c	1102	May 20	Siemens & Co.	Haiphong	To-morrow
Elfr	3 c	1102	May 20	Arnold, Karberg & Co.	San Francisco	
Gaelic	3 c	1201	May 18	O. S. S. Co.		
Gratitude	3 c	1201	May 18	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	Kutchinotzu	
Guthrie	5 c	1201	May 21	Mitsui Bussan Kaisha		
Hampshire	5 c	1009	May 21	Russell & Co.	Singapore	To-day
James Watt	3 c	1018	May 21	Russell & Co.	Singapore	23rd inst.
Japanese	3 c	1204	May 18	Adamson, Bell & Co.	Hoihow, &c.	
Johann	3 c	862	May 21	Yuen Fat Hong		
Kong Kong	3 c	1354	May 18	Russell & Co.		
Ma Lene	3 c	862	May 21	Douglas Steamship Co.		
Namoa	3 c	1729	May 19	Arnold, Karberg & Co.		
Ocapack	3 c	254	May 19	Gibb, Livingston & Co.		
Partridge	3 c	1204	May 18	Siemens & Co.		
Panig	3 c	1204	May 18	Siemens & Co.		
Pilot Fish	3 c	1204	May 18	Siemens & Co.		
Pratt Jackson	3 c	1204	May 18	Siemens & Co.		
Sues	3 c	1204	May 18	Siemens & Co.		
Taichow	3 c	1204	May 18	Siemens & Co.		
Thibet	3 c	1204	May 18	Siemens & Co.		
Triumph	3 c	1204	May 18	Siemens & Co.		
Vindobala	3 c	1204	May 18	Siemens & Co.		
Vortiger	3 c	1204	May 18	Siemens & Co.		
Whampoa	3 c	1204	May 18	Siemens & Co.		
Yorkshire	3 c	1204	May 18	Siemens & Co.		

Vessel's Name.	Flag and Rig.	Tonn.	Date of Arrival.	Consignees or Agents.	Destination.	Remarks.
Abbie Carver	3 c	338	April 3	Wielor & Co.	Honolulu	
Alma Rowe	3 c	918	May 12	Melchers & Co.	San Francisco	
Alma	3 c	918	May 12	Melchers & Co.	San Francisco	
Annie Johnson	3 c	947	Jan. 18	Melchers & Co.	San Francisco	
Aurora	3 c	2-6	May 19	Chinese		
Bua Pan	3 c	574	May 10	Chinese		
Channel Queen	3 c	1307	Mar. 5	Order		
Cheshire	3 c	313	May 7	Wielor & Co.		
Elizabeth Nicholson	3 c	904	May 11	Arnold, Karberg & Co.	London, &c.	
Ellen A. Reed	3 c	1750	Jan. 26	Carlowitz & Co.	New York	
Esperance	3 c	281	May 19	Carlowitz & Co.		
Fred. P. Litchfield	3 c	1042	Mar. 26	Carlowitz & Co.		
Geo. R. Scofield	3 c	184	May 18	Carlowitz & Co.		
Hallowell	3 c	1101	May 1	Adamson, Bell & Co.	San Francisco	
Henry S. Sanford	3 c	1847	Jan. 2	Russell & Co.	New York	
John Currier	3 c	1397	Mar. 22	Carlowitz & Co.		
Josephus	3 c	693	April 27	Chinese		
Kwong Tong	3 c	682	May 18	Wielor & Co.		
Lady Harwood	3 c	682	May 18	Wielor & Co.		
Livingstone	3 c	1825	May 8	Butterfield & Swire		
Leanda	3 c	750	April 19	Arnold, Karberg & Co.		
Malinda	3 c	810	May 7	Chinese		
McIntosh	3 c	937	April 25	Carlowitz & Co.		
St. David	3 c	1836	April 15	Douglas, Laprak & Co.		
Sultana	3 c	612	April 12	Captain		
Ta Hongkong	3 c	638	May 19	Chinese		
Tampaca	3 c	494	May 18	Chinese		
Wandering Minstrel	3 c	366	April 14	Arnold, Karberg & Co.		

Her Britannic Majesty's Ships in the China Squadron.

Her Britannic Majesty's	
Name.	Rig.
Albatross	composite screw sloop
Andalusian*	double-screw iron frigate
Champion	corvette
Cleopatra	corvette
Cockchafer	gunboat
Constance	corvette
Daring	composite sloop
Esk	double-screw gunboat
Esper	gunboat
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